

CLAIMS

1. A method of packaging goods having a liquid element, said liquid element comprising dissolved gases, wherein the liquid element is treated prior to said goods being subjected to a vacuum packing process, such that a substantial proportion of said dissolved gases does not escape from said liquid element during said vacuum packing process.
2. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the liquid element is treated by subjecting it to a gas removal process.
3. A method in accordance with Claim 2, wherein the said gas removal process comprises subjecting said liquid element to an evacuation process in a vacuum packer.
4. A method in accordance with Claim 3, wherein the said evacuation process involves placing said liquid element in a container which is then placed in a cavity of the vacuum packer, said cavity subsequently being evacuated by means of a vacuum pump.
5. A method in accordance with Claim 4, wherein said container has a volume of at least twice the volume of said liquid element.
6. A method in accordance with Claims 4 or 5 wherein liquid element when held in said container has an exposed surface area which is greater than the depth of the liquid in said container.

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7. A method in accordance with Claim 2, wherein said gas removal process involves cooking the liquid element.

8. A method in accordance with Claim 7, wherein cooking the liquid element involves heating it at boiling point.

a 9. A method in accordance with ^{claim 2} ~~any one of Claims 2-8~~ wherein the said gas removal process removes substantially all of the dissolved gases from the liquid element.

10. A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the liquid element is treated by subjecting it to a freezing process.

11. A method according to Claim 10, wherein if said goods comprise a liquid element and a solid element, only said liquid element is subjected to said freezing process.

12. A method in accordance with Claim 11, wherein if said goods comprise a liquid element and a solid element, both said liquid element and said solid element are subjected to said freezing process.

13. A method in accordance with ^{claim 12} ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein said vacuum packing process is any conventional vacuum packing process.

14. A method in accordance with Claim 13, wherein said conventional packing process is a basic vacuum packing process or a gas flushing vacuum packing process.

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- a 15 A method in accordance with ^{claim 14} ~~any one of the proceeding~~
 a ~~claims~~, wherein said goods comprises foodstuffs.
- a 5 16. A method with in accordance with ^{claim 15} ~~any one of the~~
 a ~~proceeding claims~~ wherein said goods comprises a solid
 element and a liquid element.
- 10 17. A method according to Claim 16, wherein said solid
 element is perforated before said goods are subjected
 to said vacuum packing process.
- 15 18. A method according to Claim 17 wherein the surface at
 least of said solid element is perforated.
- a 19. A method according to Claim ~~17~~ or 18 wherein said solid
 element is perforated in a plurality of locations.
- 20 20. A method of vacuum packing goods having a liquid
 element, comprising the steps of subjecting said liquid
 element to a gas removal process, followed by
 subjecting the goods to a vacuum packing process.
- 25 21. A method according to Claim 17, wherein said gas
 removal process involves subjecting said liquid element
 to a vacuum.
- a 30 22. A method according to Claim ~~17~~ or 18, wherein said
 method further comprises the step of perforating a
 solid element of said goods, before submitting said
 goods to said vacuum packing process.

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23. A method according to Claim 19, wherein said perforating step comprises piercing the surface at least of said solid element.

5 24. A method according to Claim 20, wherein said solid element is pierced in a plurality of locations.

~ 25. A method according to ^{claim 19} ~~any one of Claims 17-19~~, wherein
10 said vacuum packing process is a gas flushing vacuum packing process.

a 26. A packaged foodstuff, packaged in accordance with any
a ~~one of the preceding claims~~. ^{claim 25}

15 27. A method ~~as~~ herein before described.

28. A packaged foodstuff ~~as~~ herein before described.

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